

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Startling Revelations Implicating British Officials.

Successful Expedition to Drainesville.

Capture of Rebel Officers and Civilians and Fight with the Enemy.

Additional Particulars of the Skirmish Near Vienna.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27, 1861.

The President and Cabinet were startled on Saturday afternoon last by the arrival of a distinguished military officer of the United States Army from Fort Monroe, with papers that had been seized (where, or by whom, I do not know). These papers were spread before the President and his ministerial advisers for examination, and to their astonishment, proved to be communications from rebels in the South, forwarded by British Consul agents in the principal cities of the South to Lord Lyons, who, in his official capacity, it appeared, had forwarded the rebel documents on their way to England. How they fell into the hands of our officers is more than I can tell at present. That the President and Cabinet were a good deal excited about the development made by the obtaining of the papers there is no doubt. It is possible that Lord Lyons will be able to explain the matter satisfactorily to our government, and thus extricate himself from the suspicion that now rests upon him of collusion with those who are in open rebellion against the government to which he is accredited.

REPRODUCTION TO DRAINVILLE AND ARREST OF REBELS—BRIEF STATEMENT WITH THE ENEMY.

This morning, just after midnight, by direction of Gen. McClellan, Col. Bayard, of the First Pennsylvania Cavalry, proceeded with his regiment to Drainesville to arrest a number of residents of that village, who have for some time past done much injury to the Union cause by conveying information, and in various ways giving aid and comfort to the enemy. The column took a side road and entered Drainesville from the direction of Leesburg, thus cutting off retreat, and producing the impression, when they first made their appearance, that they were rebel troops. The arrest of the six disloyal residents alluded to was immediately made, and two rebel picket sentries were also secured, when the regiment started homeward by the direct road.

After proceeding three and a half miles, when near Drainesville, a brisk fire was opened upon the head of the column from a thicket in which about fifty rebels were concealed. Colonel Bayard immediately ordered his company, armed with muskets, to dismount, and directed the other companies to surround the thicket. To secure this command it was necessary to make a detour of nearly a mile to cross a deep gully, and the opportunity to escape thus afforded was improved by a large portion of the rebels. The dismounted company charged into the woods, killing three of the rebels and making three others prisoners. Dr. Alexander, surgeon of Colonel Bayard's regiment, received a charge of buckshot in the abdomen, which will probably prove fatal. More than twenty shots were fired at Colonel Bayard, killing his horse and wounding him severely in the shoulder and thigh. He has, however, permitted his wounds to interfere with his duties. He was busily engaged this afternoon writing his report. No other casualty occurred on our side.

The prisoners were brought in to the city this afternoon, and safely lodged in the government prison.

THE RECENT SKIRMISH NEAR VIENNA—NAMES OF THE MISSING SOLDIERS.

The reconnaissance made yesterday by a squadron of the First Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Captain Ball, in the neighborhood of Vienna, resulted disastrously to our forces. After reaching Vienna they took the right hand road towards Hunter's Mill, and had gone about a mile and a half when they suddenly found themselves hemmed in on three sides, by not only a superior force of cavalry but of infantry. The discharges of the rebel muskets placed the horses of our cavalry beyond the control of their riders, the animals having been recently brought into service, and therefore unsaddled to some extent. The officers, after several ineffectual attempts to get their men in line for the purpose of making a charge, ordered a retreat, which was effected in as good order as the peculiar circumstances permitted.

The skirmish was brisk though of short duration, the rebel cavalry firing buckshot from their carbines. The number of rebels killed and wounded is not known. John Butler, private in Company H, killed a rebel cavalry officer and captured his horse. The mark on the saddle was D. S. Davis, Ridgeway, North Carolina.

Gen. Porter this morning sent out a squadron from the same cavalry regiment, under command of Capt. Robinson, consisting of Companies A and G, for the purpose of ascertaining the facts in relation to the skirmish, but returned without bringing any important information. A brigade of infantry, under Gen. Butterfield, was also dispatched for a similar purpose, but had not returned to their camp up to a late hour this evening.

About noon to-day General Porter received a communication from General Butterfield stating that he had succeeded in finding two dead bodies belonging to the cavalry regiment. These men had evidently succeeded in removing themselves from the scene of the skirmish after they had been fatally wounded.

Some of the men engaged in the skirmish yesterday, who were reported missing, have returned to camp to-day. Up to four o'clock this afternoon there were still missing Corporal Isaac Brown, Private Philip Baugh, Bernard Donahue, Drew Gregg, Morris Humphreys, Joseph Irwin, Andrew MacFarland, James McLendon, John Phillips, James Poirer, Joshua Rue, Edgar Stevens and Robert Wright, all belonging to Company F, First Pennsylvania Cavalry; and Sergeants Joseph Perry and E. W. Walker, Corporal Alcock and Joseph C. Wing, Private Frank Carr, Michael Donahue, Thomas Donahue, William Doherty, William McDonald, Hugh Moore, Charles Piper, Daniel Sullivan, Patrick Sherran and James McWilliams, of Company M, First Pennsylvania Cavalry. Total missing, twenty-eight. The dead bodies of two others, names not known, were found this afternoon near the spot where the skirmish occurred.

PORTAGE EXPEDITION.

Two regiments of infantry went out to-day under command of General Wadsworth's son, who is an aid to his father, and proceeded as far as Doctor's and Bush's farms, and brought away all the remaining forage in that neighborhood.

REPORTS OF CONTRABANDS.

Two intelligent contrabands, who were the house servants of Lawyer Murray and Dr. Baker, of Fairfax Court House, came within the lines of General Wadsworth to-day. They report that the houses of these persons were

a kind of headquarters of rebel officers, and from the conversations they had heard the rebels do not design to advance, but will act on the defensive, and that a desperate resistance will be made both at Centerville and Manassas, and that the occupation of Fairfax Court House and vicinity by the Union forces would be no inducement for the rebels to engage our troops.

AFFAIRS ON THE LOWER POTOMAC.

The rebel blockade of the Potomac river does not seem to have been vigorously enforced this week, as various vessels have arrived here with cargoes of coal, wood and other domestic supplies.

THE YANKEE IN THE STORES FOR THE FORTS.

The United States steamer Anacostia, known as the "President's barge," Acting Master Commanding Charles A. Austin, went down the river last night as far as Stomps Neck, and returned to the Navy Yard at a late hour. The Anacostia has been thoroughly repaired, and entirely refitted. Her boilers are quite new. Her run down the river last evening was principally intended as a trial trip, and proved entirely satisfactory. The Anacostia leaves to-night for Indian Head, to report to Commodore Craven, and will be attached to the Potomac flotilla.

LAST NIGHT THE HARRIS LANE AND THE OTHER VESSELS OF THE FLOTILLA OF INDIAN HEAD.

George Page made her appearance out of Quantico creek, but as she did not quit her retreat she gained another lease of existence. Approves of the Page, Dr. Russell's remarks in the London Times about her and her supposed achievements and capabilities are pure invention. She has never landed any troops in Maryland; only one attempt was made to do so, on the day she came out of Aquia creek, but the sight of a single Union soldier caused her to turn back and run into Quantico creek, whence she never dared stir till Friday night, when she attempted to capture the storeship Wyandottah, but the opportune appearance of the Hale, with her formidable batteries, once more drove her back, like a rat to its hole.

The rebels are capricious in their attentions to passing vessels. Sometimes they will let several pass without a shot, but open fire on the last. It would appear from this that when they open on an unarmed vessel it is merely for targets practice. Last night and to-day several schooners passed unmolested. Perhaps they are short of ammunition.

THE PROPOSED RESIGNATION OF GEN. BLECKER.

Various causes have been assigned for the proffered resignation of Gen. Blecker. It is generally but erroneously attributed to some disagreement between him and General McClellan. The fact is that it was the result of a misunderstanding with the Adjutant General's department. When the Eighth New York regiment was organized, to avoid the possibility of the selection of incompetent officers by the usual mode of electing company officers by the companies, General (then Colonel) Blecker asked and received from Governor Morgan authority to choose the company officers, and to change them from one post to another, which they might be found more suitable. In his anxiety to have the regiment well officered, and to have only competent men in all the commissioned offices, General Blecker not only made the appointments originally, but has since transferred captains to lieutenancies and lieutenants to captaincies. This course was regarded by the Adjutant General as totally at variance with army regulations, and its severe condemnation occasioned a correspondence, which resulted in the tender of his resignation by General Blecker, who conceived himself justified by the authority conferred upon him by Governor Morgan. The matter has, however, been explained, and the resignation, which was declined, has been withdrawn.

GEN. McCLELLAN AND GEN. BAKER IN CONFERENCE.

Major General Baker arrived here to-night, and has been in consultation with General McClellan, and has consequently not been accessible to any of the numerous friends, civil and military, anxious to pay their respects to him.

THE BERNARD SHARP SHOOTERS.

The authority to raise companies and regiments of sharpshooters granted to Colonel Sheridan last September is revoked. The companies and regiments, however, which have already been raised will nevertheless be mustered into service and proceed to Washington.

GENERAL BEAUREGARD VINDICATING THE LATE COL. BAKER.

Last week a flag of truce was borne into our lines on the Upper Potomac from the enemy's forces at Leesburg, conveying a communication from General Beauregard, in which he states, that having seen in the Northern papers a discussion in reference to certain orders alleged to have been given by General Stone to Colonel Baker, he felt it his duty to a brave soldier to transmit certified copies of the orders which had been found on the battle field and were in his possession. The orders transmitted were copies of those reported by General Stone to General McClellan as those which were given to Colonel Baker. This communication from General Beauregard was accompanied by a request totally incommensurate to the service rendered by the transmission of the orders, and which was not granted.

THE ARMAMENT OF THE PERMANENT FORTIFICATIONS.

The following named officers have been appointed to regulate and fix the number and calibre of the cannon to be mounted in the casemates and on batteries at each of the permanent fortifications of the United States, and also the number and description of guns to compose field pieces: Brigadier General Totter, Corps of Engineers; Brigadier General Ripley, Ordnance Department; Brigadier General Barry, United States Volunteers; Colonel Hunt, United States Army; and Captain Rodman, Ordnance Department. The Board will meet in Washington at such time and place as may be designated by the senior officer, and the junior members will record the proceedings.

THE COST OF THE WAR.

There has been some discussion to-day with regard to the estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury for the prosecution of the war. When asked to what recommendations he intended to make in reference to the war, he replied, "I propose to let it out by contract."

THE CASE OF CAPTAIN POOR OF THE NAVY.

The Naval Court Martial to-day, after hearing the argument in Captain Poor's case, rendered their decision, and, with all the evidence laid before them by the Secretary of the Navy, the decision will not be made public until the Secretary has examined all the facts.

THE CASE OF CAPTAIN SCOTT, OF THE NAVY.

The Naval Court Martial to-day took up the case of Captain Scott, who is charged with returning from Key West to Philadelphia, without orders, bringing with him the prize sloop.

INSPECTION OF THE TROOPS.

Colonels Switzer and Hudson, of General McClellan's staff, will proceed to-morrow to inspect all our troops on the south side of the Potomac, beginning at General Heintzelman's and concluding with General McCall's divisions.

THE ARMY.

Captain J. S. Taylor, Sixth Infantry, and Lieutenant S. S. Sumner, Fifth Cavalry, have been detached from their regiments, and assigned duty on the staff of General Sumner.

Lieutenant A. V. Sumner, Jr., now upon General Sumner's staff, was offered a position on the staff of his father, but declined upon the ground that he likes General Stoneman too well to leave him.

Colonel Stephen H. Long has been ordered to assume the duties of the head of the Corps of Topographical Engineers.

Sergeant Wm. Warren, of the Fifth United States Infantry, by the request of Brigadier General Marcy, the chief of General McClellan's staff, is to be promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Sergeant Warren was second in command under Captain Marcy (now General) when the latter crossed the Rocky Mountains through the deep snows of the winter of 1857 and 1858 to obtain supplies for the army of Utah, when it was feared that the entire force would starve before provisions would reach them. General Marcy states that Warren did more than any other man to keep up the spirits of the men and to secure success to that expedition. Floyd promised to promote him for his gallantry, but Secretary Cameron is determined that justice shall be done Sergeant Warren.

MAINE VOLUNTEERS ATTACHED TO THE REGULAR SERVICE.

The fifty-eight volunteers from the Maine Volunteer regiment, now at Tortugas, will be temporarily detached for duty to companies of regulars.

THE FLEEING IN WASHINGTON RESPECTING THE POSITION OF AFFAIRS.

There is evidently prevailing all branches of the government a far more hopeful feeling concerning a successful result of the present conflict than heretofore, and this is exhibited in conversations and otherwise. While it is believed the British press will be as earnest as our own in discussing the circumstances attending the arrest of Sidel and Mason, no fears are apprehended that the question will be productive of serious embarrassment to the two countries.

CHARACTER OF RECENT ADVICES FROM EUROPE.

The intelligence received by the last mail from Europe is entirely satisfactory. It is reported that the rebel agents, who have been strenuously every point in both England and France to accomplish the designs have entirely failed. It was stated upon pretty good authority that Yancy and T. Butler King were preparing to return home, evidently in anticipation of the arrival of Sidel and Mason.

Judge Quigley, late United States Consul at Antwerp, and who was in correspondence with Garibaldi respecting his acceptance of a position in our army, has arrived here with important dispatches to the government.

CONSULAR APPOINTMENTS.

Governor Ludlam of Texas, has been appointed Consul to Ancona, Italy. He emigrated to Texas about twelve years ago, having been called from Hungary for his participation in the revolution, in which he took part as commander of Comora during its memorable siege. He had engaged in the cultivation of vineyards successfully in Texas, but was driven thence on account of his Union sentiments. Governor Uthair yesterday visited General Blecker's camp, where the found many of his old friends and companions in arms, who received him with enthusiasm.

THE MISSION TO JAPAN.

Robert H. Pruyn, of New York, recently appointed Minister to Japan, has been called from Hungary for his participation in the revolution, in which he took part as commander of Comora during its memorable siege. He had engaged in the cultivation of vineyards successfully in Texas, but was driven thence on account of his Union sentiments. Governor Uthair yesterday visited General Blecker's camp, where the found many of his old friends and companions in arms, who received him with enthusiasm.

ARRIVAL OF REBEL CANNON.

"Hope's Dispatch" for the transportation of army and sutler supplies, etc., between New York and Washington, via Harrisburg, brought hither to-day twenty small rifled cannon of peculiar construction.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARMY RETIRING BOARD.

In addition to those heretofore announced, the Army Board have retired the following named officers, in consequence of physical disability:—Major Henry S. Judd, Lowell Jones and Christopher S. Lovell. The President has approved the finding.

RETIRED OF ARMS.

An order has been issued and addressed to government officers and agents now authorized to inspect and purchase arms in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, to seize all arms fit for use, with instructions not to exceed the price of twenty dollars each for real English Enfield rifles.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM MISSOURI.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 26, 1861.

General Fremont and family left on the four o'clock train for New York.

A disagreement has arisen in reference to the exchange of the Camp Jackson prisoners, which will probably indefinitely postpone the release of the men composing Mulligan's Brigade. No trouble exists relative to commuted officers, but General Price submits the list of prisoners, which does not conform with the list furnished to General Lyon in May last by Camp Jackson officers, which General Curtis adheres to, and which gives rise to a suspicion that the new list contains fictitious names.

Captain James Grege, formerly a notorious minuter man and Camp Jackson prisoner, arrived here from Tennessee, and was immediately arrested by order of the Provost Marshal and lodged in the military prison.

The report yesterday that claims amounting to \$8,000, 000 had been approved by the War Commissioners, was incorrect. The claims on file represent that amount. The proceedings are conducted privately, and no decisions have yet been announced, although a number of claims have been decided. The number of claims filed to date is 2,050, and they accumulate at the rate of one hundred daily.

THE COMMERCE OF THE WESTERN RIVERS.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 27, 1861.

General Curtis has issued orders to the following effect:—To keep communication with the enemy; to prevent the conveyance of contraband goods, and avoid the recurrence of assaults upon steamboats.

The entire commerce of the Mississippi river, below this city, is assumed, and will be directed by the military and naval authorities of the United States. None but government boats will hereafter be employed; but freight and passengers will be conveyed as current rates, as heretofore. All boats entering these waters will report at the first military post, and step to proceed under military orders at the discretion of the military commander. Freight and passengers will be subjected to careful inspection. The cash will be administered to all the employees and passengers, and the places of landing and departure will conform as near as possible to the custom of trade, but all commission and storage business must be transacted with openly avowed Union men.

General Halleck has issued very stringent orders respecting the seizure of private property, and the arrest of persons without sufficient cause.

General Sherman has taken command of our forces at Sedalia. There are about twenty thousand Union troops at points on the Pacific Railroad, west of Jefferson City.

There is nothing new respecting the movements of General Fremont.

Governor Gamble has appointed and commissioned General Halleck, of the New York State Militia.

Major General Halleck has appointed Brigadier General Scofield to command all the State forces.

MOVEMENTS OF PRICE'S REBEL ARMY, ETC.

INDIANAPOLIS, Mo., Nov. 26, 1861.

General Price is at Pleasant Hill with 25,000 troops, going west.

This morning Lieutenant Colonel Anthony detailed a lieutenant and five men to examine the country in this county. They returned with fourteen kegs of powder, found concealed in a vault, supposed to be that taken from Liberty.

All the cattle captured by the Union troops from the rebels at Warrensburg are now on the way to Fort Leavenworth. Twenty-two bushwhackers, who burned the train, are now prisoners.

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony captured to-day a lot of government freight wagons and one government horse from a rebel.

The First Cavalry regiment is now encamped on the fair ground, one mile south of this city.

JEFFERSON CITY, Nov. 27, 1861.

For the last two nights our pickets at Sedalia have been fired upon by the rebels returning from General Price's army.

The reports that General Price is advancing from the Osage river are not correct. The truth seems to be that a portion of his army, composed of Missourians, is disbanding, and their men are returning in small squads for the purpose of clothing themselves and preparing themselves for another campaign, and wherever they can they commit all manner of outrages on Union men.

A gentleman just from Lexington reports that the city was full of returned rebels, and that there is a steady stream of arrivals.

The steamer Sioux City, with a large cargo of goods for points on the river west of here, was refused permission to proceed on her trip to-day by the commandant of this point.

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 27, 1861.

To-day six armed companies of the Newark militia, on the old Lexington road, were fired upon by about fifty rebels, at the crossing of the Little Blue, from the rocks and bushes. One of the scouts was wounded and two are missing; supposed to be killed. The three white returning met some hundred rebels on Little Blue bridge, with

SOLDIERS. The scouts then returned, took another road, and arrived safely in camp.

Lieutenant Hodgman sent out twenty men, found them and drove them into the brush and captured twenty horses and mules.

A band of rebels, two hundred strong, passed over from Chy county to-day. Two hundred and fifty of General Maine's men are at Shelby.

Captain Webb has fifty rebels in the brush, six miles southeast. Captain Hays, four hundred rebels in Little Blue. Col. Reynolds has two hundred rebels near Lafayette county. There must be some warm fighting soon, as a large force of rebels are reported near Pleasant Hill.

THE REBELS FORTIFYING NEW MADRID.

Cairo, Ill., Nov. 27, 1861.

It is reported that the rebels are fortifying New Madrid, Mo., and that they have five hundred negroes working.

A detachment of cavalry made a reconnaissance as far as Hannibal to-day, but found no rebels on the Missouri side of the river.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

[From the Washington Star.]

We are in possession of copies of the Richmond Dispatch, and the Editor of the 26th instant, from close examination of which we learn many facts of interest concerning the state of affairs in Virginia. Thus we learn that John Hunter, of Lexington, has resigned the presidency of that state's revolutionary body, the Virginia Constitutional Convention, which is again in session, having asserted the right to perpetuate its own existence. He states as reason for his resignation other than that he was tired of the (unenviable) office.

The action of James Barbour, of Colquhoun (whose unexpected appointment last spring gave the ascendancy to the revolutionary sentiment in the body and thus precipitated the State into secession), Robert Hunter, of Loudoun, resigned the presidency of that state's revolutionary body, the Virginia Constitutional Convention, which is again in session, having asserted the right to perpetuate its own existence. He states as reason for his resignation other than that he was tired of the (unenviable) office.

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